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THE AMERICAN

A NATIONAL JOURNAL

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CARDINAL TENETS OF THE PEOPLES PARTY.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

AMONG the Republican press there is much adulation of Britain and things British, warm expression of ardent sympathy for the British in their war with the Boers. Nor is it entirely surprising. For is not our Administration which this press is in duty bound to support taking Britain for our preceptor in the colonial business—at least as to the far East? Would it not have us join hands with Britain to push a common policy in China, holding that our interests are identical and that common sense bids us join forces to defend these interests together? And are

not the ties between our moneyed interests, which back the Administration and are in turn backed by it, and the moneyed interests of London the closest? Indeed, would it not be unnatural for our Republican press to be other than pro-British and anti-Boer?

But the victories of the Boers have won for them the warm admiration of the American people. At first, ere the war was fairly entered upon, the feeling of the American people was confined to one of silent pity for the Boers, as a people struggling to maintain their independence but whose fate was already sealed. And this feeling being given no expression that could be heard across the sea, British listened to the adulation, the well wishes, of the Republican press and flattered themselves that the sympathy of America was on their side, that to America they could turn for comfort in an hour of stress. Indeed, so much was Chamberlain impressed by the warmth of sympathy displayed by the Republican press, but not felt by the body of American people, that in grandiose language he spoke of Britain and America as bound together in fraternal alliance, ready to support each other against the world and warned the nations of Europe, jealous of Britain's growth, to keep hands off in the Transvaal quarrel. But this very word alliance grated on the American ear, and the thought that our Administration was making for an alliance with Britain threatened to reflect so injuriously on the popularity of that Administration that members thereof found it wise to disown these words of Chamberlain as wholly unwarranted. And then the American people who looked upon the Boers with but a silent pity at the beginning of the war and when they thought that that war would be for the Boers but a bucking of their heads against a stone wall, and filled with a thrill of enthusiasm by the recurring Boer victories began to give audible expression to their sympathy for the Boers which, drifting across the sea, was heard by the British with pained surprise. For truly had they thought that the sympathy of America was with them, aye, even nursed the fond dream that if the powers of Europe should interfere with Britain's plan of conquest, assail her at different point, threaten her Empire, drive her to dire straits that America would draw the sword in her behalf. And as Britain awakens to the knowledge that the sympathy of the American people is not with her she will find, worst of all, perhaps also to her pained surprise, that our Administration is no staunch friend but will shift its position with the expression of such sympathy. For it is the great characteristic of our President to catch public sentiment and drift with it.

LET this expression of sympathy for the Boers go on, through the holding of public meetings, and the chances will become real, aye, perhaps grow into a probability that some-time, in a moment of enthusiasm, House or Senate will take up and pass some such pro-Boer resolution of sympathy as that introduced by Senator Mason—wherewith the carefully cultured but yet unsprung Anglo-Ameri-

Why Join Hands with England?

can alliance will be knocked into flinders, as indeed it ought to be for our good. It is said, indeed, that we ought to join hands with England in the East for the protection and furthering of mutual interests. But if the British navy be as overrated as the British army is showing itself to be of what value would such support be to us? Would not, indeed, the support be all the other way round, a question for us of supporting much more than our own load?

And, further, what do we want anyway with a policy of forcing peoples to open up their markets to us, buy of us at the cannon's mouth? There is no profit to be had in

A False Trade Policy.

such a policy. True, a passing market of great momentary profit may be won in this way. In this way riches may be reaped until we have stripped a people held in subjection of their wealth. But to be lasting trade must be mutually profitable; if it is not so profitable it must fast dry up.

However, after we have stripped a people held in subjection of their accumulations, it is said that we may continue to reap wealth by exploiting their hitherto undeveloped resources, the riches buried in their ground, to be extracted from their soil, from their labor. But who is "we"? Our people? No, not at all. The few who may be favored with concessions, franchises, another name for monopolies. As for the multitude they would not profit at all, would not profit from an increased market for our goods in China, for as that China of almost illimitable wealth was developed it would supply its own markets. It would have no need to buy of us for there is nothing that we could supply her people that they could not more cheaply supply themselves.

But it is said that our Administration does not propose that we should join England to open up Chinese markets at the cannon's mouth. It is not to open markets but to keep the Chinese markets from being closed against us by the European powers, extending their influence, their quasi-dominion over China, that we have need to join hands with England. Such is the way the question is presented. But what are these markets; what chances do they offer to us? Obviously they are not our natural markets, for what is the use of nations exchanging products across the Pacific when they have equal natural resources and an inherent ability to produce those very things for themselves with as little labor as the other people can produce them? Clearly in such trade the labor expended in transporting goods back and forth across the Pacific would be wasted, and such trade is not the kind that we should seek to build. To suppose that a permanent market can be found for steel rails in China, when coal and iron beds equal to if not surpassing our own are found there in close proximity, is folly. In some things there of course will continue to be trade with China. But if we are going to send great exports of manufactured goods what are we going to buy in return? Nothing! If so we soon strip China of its ability to buy and such trade must dry up.

The direction in which it is our interest to exert ourselves to extend our trade is not that of China but that of the islands and continent to the south of us. For they have something which we want to buy and we something of which they have need and not the ability to economically produce for themselves. Here, then, is the basis for a natural because mutually advantageous trade. Let us up and after it though it bring us commercially in antagonism to England, not join hands with England to fight for extended markets in China, for markets not naturally open to us but by nature closed to us.

SINCE the defeat of Buller on the Tugela there has been little change in the military situation in South Africa. At least if there has been any material change we have not been permitted to know of it. But, evidently, Buller is more fearful of attack by the Boers than he is anxious to attack for he

has destroyed the wagon bridge across the Tugela at Colenso. It is not a case of Boer destroying bridge to check British advance but British destroying bridge to hinder Boer. Indeed the army marshalled for the relief of Ladysmith, an army necessarily intended for offense, has been forced to take a position of defense, as has Methuen's army dispatched for the relief of Kimberley. And it is only reasonable to assume, though we know nothing, that every day brings Ladysmith and Kimberley nearer to surrender, for no one believes that the British beleaguered in those towns have other hope than that placed in relief from outside.

WHILE it is broadly hinted in London, perhaps with a purpose to deceive the Boers but more likely to anticipate and still impatience of the British people, that no

Delagoa Bay. forward movement of the British in South Africa is to be expected until after the arrival of Lord Roberts and material reinforcements, no general forward movement to be anticipated before March, though Lord Roberts and General Kitchener are due to arrive at the Cape before the middle of January, and while the reports of the military situation that have been permitted to come through have been most barren and the public have been left to understand that that situation was and promised to remain for some time in a state of statu quo, the British Government has raised and directed attention to a serious international question. Four ships—three British and one Dutch—loaded in part with American flour consigned to merchants of Lorenzo Marquez, the chief port of Portuguese East Africa, have been overhauled by British men-of-war on the high seas, on their approach to Delagoa Bay, their voyages interrupted and their cargoes seized as contraband of war.

Now Lorenzo Marquez on Delagoa bay, the best harbor on all the east coast of Africa, is the terminus of a narrow gauge railroad running directly to Pretoria. Indeed, this road is the shortest rail route from Pretoria to the sea, and that the Boers are receiving provisions, munitions of war, recruits for their armies by this route is not to be doubted.

Naturally the knowledge of this gives the British much annoyance and in hastening to put a stop to this trade they have

let their anxiety get the better of their judgment. **A Thorn in Britain's Side.** They have virtually established a blockade of

Delagoa bay, stopped vessels entering, seized flour and other provisions as contraband of war. Now Delagoa bay is a neutral harbor and no nation at war with another has a right to interrupt commerce between the ports of one neutral and the ports of another, even though that commerce be in munitions of war, save it be manifest that such commerce be really between a neutral and a belligerent, goods being simply shipped through the territory of a second neutral as it were in transit. And the British hold that it is manifest that the ultimate destination of the cargoes of flour which they have seized was not Portuguese East Africa, but the Transvaal.

But even so, and the burden of proof rests upon them, what right had they to seize cargoes of flour, belonging to merchants of a neutral nation? For no nation, be it at war with another, has a right to interfere with the vessels of neutrals carrying goods belonging to neutrals and that are not by their nature contraband into the ports of a belligerent unless, indeed, a blockade of the ports of such neutral be declared and maintained. And Delagoa bay being a neutral harbor cannot, of course, be of right blockaded by Britain. To so blockade would be an unwarranted interference not only with the rights of the people of the blockaded port, but of the rights of all neutrals trading with such port and such neutrals would be perfectly justified to use force to raise such blockade. But it does not follow that Britain which has thus no right and will hardly dare to declare a formal blockade of Delagoa bay has no right to stop neutral vessels approaching

An Unchanged Situation in South Africa.

Delagoa bay, search them for contraband goods, and if such goods are found order such vessels to some convenient British port where such contraband goods can be seized, unloaded, and the vessels then released. For this is a right conferred on a belligerent by international law. And the fact that such contraband goods may be consigned to merchants of Lorenzo Marquez, a neutral port, makes no difference if it can be shown beyond a reasonable doubt that the real destination of such goods is the Transvaal. And that Britain would be perfectly justified under international law in seizing cargoes of munitions of war consigned to merchants in Lorenzo Marquez, but evidently for transshipment to the Transvaal for the use of the Boer armies, and taking such cargoes out of neutral bottoms is not to be questioned. For such munitions clearly come under the category of contraband articles.

BUT can flour be placed in this category? The line between articles that are contraband and articles that are not is far from sharp and indeed is one shifting with circumstances. But the general rule is that articles such as non-combatants have use for and which it is reasonable to suppose may be intended for the consumption of such non-combatants are not contraband. And surely flour and provisions such as are imported into a country in the ordinary course of trade, and as flour and provisions are imported into the Transvaal, must come in this category. It is so that the Government of the United States has always interpreted the term contraband. But it is also true that Great Britain, during the wars of the French revolution and when maintaining a semi-blockade of French ports, did insist on treating provisions as contraband, declaring that the men of France being off at war and there being insufficient hands left at home to cultivate the fields and raise the food that France and those armies needed, it was evident that if provisions from outside were cut off from France she and her armies would be starved into submission. And it is a fact that in 1794 and to end the dispute over this contention of Britain as to the meaning of contraband the United States did enter into a treaty with Great Britain, wherein it was set forth that "whereas the difficulty of agreeing on the precise cases in which alone provisions and other articles not generally contraband may be regarded as such renders it expedient to provide against the inconveniences and misunderstandings which might thence arise it is agreed that whenever such articles so becoming contraband, according to the existing laws of nations, shall for that reason be seized, the same shall not be confiscated, but the owners thereof shall be speedily and completely indemnified." But this treaty provision expired by limitation in 1806 and was not afterwards renewed.

NOW BRITAIN, regarding importations of flour and provisions into the Transvaal as she regarded similar importations into France a century ago, holds that she is justified in treating such articles as contraband and seizing them as such. Whether she will feel called upon to indemnify the owners, completely and speedily, and as set forth in the provisions of the extinct treaty of 1794 remain to be seen. Unless she does she will probably receive some vigorous representations from our government, for however friendly the President and his advisers may feel towards Great Britain they can scarce let such seizures pass unnoticed as if justified under international law. And, curious as it may seem, Britain herself can scarce afford that we should. For looked at not as bearing upon the immediate present and the Transvaal war, but as bearing upon some future and greater war in which Britain may be engaged and in which her own food supplies may be threatened, her action in seizing flour and other provisions as contraband of war and asking us to acquiesce in such seizure as justifiable is

The Seizure of Flour as Contraband.

perfectly foolish. For there is no nation on the face of the globe so dependent on outside sources for her food supply and which could so promptly be starved into submission by a cutting off of those supplies as Great Britain. And does Britain want us to take a position now that in the event of a war between the powers of Europe and herself will require us to tolerate the capture of flour shipped in our or other neutral vessels for British ports as contraband of war? Is such an interpretation of international law, an interpretation that flour may rightly be considered contraband of war, a profitable one for Great Britain?

Let that interpretation receive recognition and it will be made easier for enemies of Britain to in the future cut off, intercept her food supplies and starve her into submission. While breadstuffs are not classed as contraband, no nation or nations of Europe can cut off Britain from her food supplies and starve her into submission unless able to establish a blockade over British ports. And the first requisite to the establishment of such blockade is the overpowering of the British navy. But if breadstuffs be contraband then vessels of Britain's enemies cruising off our coasts or in mid-Atlantic could intercept the vessels of neutrals carrying cargoes of American foodstuffs to British ports and seize such cargoes as contraband. And while there was such cruising of enemy's vessels the insurance rates on cargoes of foodstuffs would be so great, even if it would be possible to insure such cargoes at all, that the prices for breadstuffs would be forced up so high in England as to impoverish and exhaust the British people and drive them to sue for peace though sufficient grain ships should escape interception to keep Britain's needs supplied. For the risks those sending out these grain ships, ships loaded with contraband would run they would have to be paid. And the only way Britain could prevent this cruising of enemy's vessels to intercept the grain ships, vessels that would run away from British men of war if meeting them on the high seas, would be to blockade the ports of her enemies both in Europe and the West Indies, and block them so effectively that such cruisers could not run in for coal and stores and then sally out again. Or indeed Britain might attempt to supply convoys for grain fleets that she might send out.

But in either case her fleets would be so scattered as to leave her vulnerable at home and this scattering she would not of necessity be driven to if breadstuffs were not held to be contraband and we refused to tolerate the seizure as such of our wheat and flour shipped for British ports. Indeed, in seizing flour as contraband Britain is playing into the hands of her enemies. We would further like to know if Britain were at war with Germany, had blockaded her ports and shut her off from getting foodstuffs from us in the usual manner, and if Germany began to draw such imports through France, if Britain would dare to intercept importations of foodstuffs into France on the ground that some portion reached Germany and seize such foodstuffs as contraband? In a great measure this would be a case paralleling her present course in South Africa—save only that Portugal is weak. But the United State is not weak and in the seizure of our flour consigned to merchants in the Portuguese port of Lorenzo Marquez, and on the plea that some or all of such flour would reach the Transvaal our rights as a neutral are trampled upon.

THERE are not a few men in England of hot blood who urge their government to seize Delagoa Bay outright that the Boers may be effectively shut off from all outside succor —succor that they can get so long as they have the mines of the Rand from which to draw the gold to pay for such—and many of which mines the Boers are now working—and so long as Delagoa Bay is in neutral hands. Of course, to so seize Delagoa Bay would be an act of war upon Portugal, but Portugal being little and helpless why stop over this? Because

A Foolish Step for Britain.

such seizure would likely be followed by international complications that would present to Britain many fold greater difficulties than she would overcome through such seizure. And recognizing this the cooler heads in Britain draw back from such seizure. By such seizure something might be gained, but something more would likely be lost.

THE great Powers of Europe themselves unwilling, as yet, to make any move openly hostile to Great Britain are not at all unwilling to incite other and weaker peoples to tread where they hesitate to tread themselves and add to the load of Britain's difficulties, add to the strain on her resources until the Empire crumble. And Menelik, Emperor of Abyssinia, whose hosts armed with Russian rifles so signally defeated the Italian armies sent to filch from him a portion of his realm a couple of years ago, is well placed to strike an effective blow at Britain's power. Moreover, Britain having only recently arrived at an understanding with Italy by which the better part of the Italian claims so successfully disputed by the Abyssinians are handed over to her to prosecute invites this attack.

What force of fighting men Menelik might put in the field with secretly given European assistance, launch into the newly conquered Soudan and hurl upon Egypt is to the world at large a mystery. But that his followers are born fighters is known; that they can successfully stand against European troops they have proven, and though believers in the Christian religion they carry into battle much of the fierce fanaticism of the Turk. Three hundred thousand fighting men, it is said, are obedient to the call of the Negus Menelik and from such number it would seem that he could draw a sufficient number to sweep the English officered Egyptian troops from the Soudan, hurl them down into lower Egypt as he drove the Italians in utter, irreparable route back to the Red Sea, under the shelter of the guns of their ships. And if Menelik should thus attack Egypt at this time from whence would Britain draw the troops to send to the rescue and fight him back?

AT THE banquet of the New England Society of the Oranges held in Orange, New Jersey, on Friday of last week, and at which he was the honored guest, Secretary Gage, in an after-dinner speech, thus warmed up to his subject: "It takes a long time," he said, "to learn that there are laws—irrepealable laws—in the natural order, which spring out of the relation of things to each other, and that these laws, though unwritten, bless those who conform to them, and administer retributive punishment to those who disobey them. True wisdom, therefore, consists in this: To patiently study the true drift and tendencies inherent in things, and their relations to each other, that when man-made law is declared it may not be found to be in violation of the higher laws."

And, while thus speaking, it never crossed his mind that our financial laws are in violation of the higher laws of justice, and that our disobedience of the true laws is bringing down upon us retributive punishment. But pointing to the prosperity that, following a period of industrial paralysis, came, he declared, with the defeat of Mr. Bryan, "when the voice of the people declared for the preservation and perpetuation of that form of metallic money which has long been in use by us, as the ultimate measure of value," he continued: "We have had demonstration, complete and convincing, that confidence in the stability of the standard brings life and activity, with their rich harvest of benefits to all the people." And yet during the last two years this metallic money, which has long been in use by us, as the ultimate measure of values, as the standard of future payments, has not been stable, but has been falling steadily, as in years before it was rising. And with increasing instability in this

standard, but an instability running in the opposite direction to which it was running in the years before, a direction leading to cheaper money and higher prices instead of dearer money, lower prices and cheaper men, there has come life and activity to industry. Gold production vastly increasing and gold becoming more plentiful, the value of gold fell. And this gold, being our standard of value, that standard fell, and everything measured by it rose. And therewith came revival, a revival not dependent on any assured stability of the standard, for such stability there has been none.

IT is given out that the Republican leaders in the Senate intend to pass their Currency Bill without a single change, and thus get the Senate and House bills into conference committee as early as possible. One provision of the House bill, and absent in the Senate, namely, that authorizing the establishment of banks with \$25,000 capital in small towns, whereas no bank can now be organized under the National Bank Act with less than \$50,000 capital, does, indeed, find favor with Republican Senators. But they have no intention of putting that provision in the Senate bill, but rather hold it back as something to be conceded to the House conferees in the game of give and take that goes on in Conference Committee, as something in return for which the House conferees will be asked to accede to the refunding provisions of the Senate bill. It will not be a very fair trade, but if we mistake not, it will go through.

Only two Democratic Senators are expected to vote with the Republicans on this measure for, indeed, the ranks of the gold Democrats have been much thinned out in the Senate. "The vote," writes a Washington correspondent, "will not show as much division in the Democratic ranks as the similar vote in the House." A little while ago it would have been the other way round. And this is significant of a turn in the silver tide in the Democratic party. A couple of years ago when that tide was at its flood a gold Democrat could scarce be found in the House. In the Senate there were several, for the constitution of the Senate is such that its make up is not so subject to changes in the popular tide, can only be gradually changed, as only a third of the Senators are to be elected every two years. So the thinning out of the gold Democrats from the Senate was a slower process than the thinning out of such Democrats from the House membership. But so now, with a turn in the tide, the thickening up process is slower, while in the House, more responsive to a turn in the tide, such turn is evinced by the appearance of a number of gold Democrats.

OUR impression is that the next Democratic convention will not tender the nomination for the Presidency to Mr. Bryan. And many of his friends coming to a like impression are certainly exerting themselves to secure his nomination by the Peoples and Silver Republican parties, and to induce him to accept such nomination and run independently of the Democracy, in opposition to the candidates of both Democratic and Republican parties. And to this end they press him to train himself a little more along Populistic lines, aye, a great deal more. Thus the Executive Committee of the Democratic National Ways and Means Committee for Brooklyn, N. Y., an organization in line with the Chicago Platform Democracy of the State, and at the instance of Mr. Eugene V. Brewster, an ardent friend of Mr. Bryan, urges the Democracy "to declare for a paper currency only, having no qualities of redemption," and for "public ownership of public utilities, such as railroads, telegraphs, telephones, etc." Now if the Democrats have so far advanced as to believe in these things they might as well come over to the Peoples party

in a body, for it is for these things that the Peoples party stands. But, of course, the Democratic party in national convention will not declare for any such things, nor have those who urge it to declare for these things any expectation that it will. Rather will it take a step backward than forward. But expecting this these Democrats do hope that Mr. Bryan will take a step, a great stride forward, and they thus take occasion to make known to him their feelings.

How much Mr. Bryan will listen to them remains to be seen. If he, too, is gaining the impression that the Democracy is like to go backward at its next national convention and not forward, and as well he may, he may listen deeply and work hard to gain for himself the Populist nomination. As for the silver Republican nomination that will come easy to him. But to make headway with the Populists he must show himself more of a Populist than he has so far. Indeed, up to this time he has shown himself opposed to the cardinal tenets of Populism, believing in metallic money, holding that all paper money should be made redeemable in coin and refusing to discuss the railroad question, proclaim himself in favor of government ownership. But we do not believe that he as yet harbors any serious doubt as to his nomination by the Democracy next year, or treats seriously the suggestion that he make himself more of a Populist.

THE Republicans have one card which, if they play, will drive the Southern Democrats into the arms of the New York

**A Republican Nut
for Bourbon
Democrats.**

Democracy. That card is the proposal to reduce the representation of the southern states in Congress and, of course, in the electoral college by the proportion that the number of males of voting age whom they have by law disfranchised bears to the total number of such males. Carried out this would mean that the state that has disfranchised two-thirds of its males of voting age, and as Mississippi has done, would have its representation in the House cut down to one-third of what it is now.

As a first step to carrying out this proposal Representative Crumpacker, of Indiana, has introduced a bill directing the Director of the Census to collect such statistics as will enable the next Congress to apportion representation in accordance with this programme, and as Congress has the right to do under the XIV. amendment. Let the Southern Democrats get the idea into their heads that the success of the Republicans at the polls next November, the election of the President and a Congress with a Republican majority will be followed by a reduction in their representation and, thinking only of how to serve themselves, their seats, they will rush to the New York Democracy for help, throwing over the silver issue, anything for help. Of course, under such an apportionment plan as suggested, they could save the representation of their states in Congress by repealing the acts disfranchising voters. But this would not save to them individually their representation, for the repeal of the acts by which they have disfranchised their opponents would destroy their political supremacy.

WE ARE in no way enamored with the doctrines that Congressman Dolliver, of Iowa, as a rock ribbed Republican, proclaims; nor as a deep thinker or student of financial questions does the Congressman much impress us. But he has a manner of speech that combines force with lightness, seriousness with levity in a way that is catchy. Besides, he now and then speaks of things with a bluntness and frankness that is astonishing.

**The Truth
About Two
Parties.**

And in discussing the currency bill he evidently felt that the Republican party was so firmly ensconced in power that he could afford to be blunt and frank, talk of the political hypocrisy indulged in by his party in the making of platforms just as he talked of the hypocrisy of the Democracy and then dismiss the

whole matter in a spirit of levity. And withal he told some truths in such forcible words that we cannot help borrowing them.

"If the act of 1873 had remained undisturbed by subsequent silver legislation, all or nearly all of our monetary problems would have been simplified, if not avoided altogether. [That is, from the standpoint of the gold mono-metallist for then there would have been practically no admixture of silver in our currency, and when specie payments were resumed we would have been tied down to the gold basis]. I say that notwithstanding the party in which I have served all my life is responsible for all that has ever been done for silver. I do not accuse our friends of the Democratic party of ever having helped silver at all. During the whole of Mr. Cleveland's first Administration you never even offered a bill on this subject in this House [which is substantially but not strictly correct], though you had a majority here and though the slender Republican majority in the Senate was made up from the silver states.

"And the last time you elected Mr. Cleveland President of the United States I charge that you elected him well knowing that he was the most hostile factor in the politics of the country against the free coinage of silver. He was not nominated by the money power of New York. Either the money power of New York had no influence or else they used it to send delegates malignant in their antipathy to Mr. Cleveland, because in his nomination what you have described as the money power of the East was overruled by the South and West, and thus Mr. Cleveland was a second time made leader of the Democratic party. You think you did a bad thing for yourselves, but I tell you that you unintentionally did a first-rate thing for the American people. [Laughter and applause on the Republican side].

"It may be said, therefore, that the silver question was never seriously taken up in the United States until 1896. You on that side never allowed your dim and nebulous convictions on the subject to interfere with your electing its chief enemy President, and we on our side never hesitated to write our platform for the entertainment of our Rocky Mountain friends."

And this is the gospel truth though it can hardly be called flattering to either the Democratic or Republican party.

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS.

ON Christmas Day we dole out a little to the needy whom we have stripped of the fruits of their toil, stripped of the right to labor, obliged to pay tribute for the exercise of that, a God-given right, and, thinking ourselves charitable, pleased with our passing exhibit of graciousness and kindness towards our fellow-men, go on our way rejoicing, quite forgetful, aye, oblivious, of our inhumanity to man. To strip one's fellow-man of the fruits of his toil, to get the machinery of production and distribution in hand and use that machinery to exact tribute of men for the right to work is not brotherly. Yet in this way, in a way to make countless thousands mourn, do men grasp for, and, aye, reap riches too. Indeed, to grasp the machinery of production and distribution for selfish ends, systematically organize this machinery into trusts and monopolies and railroad combines for purposes of despoilment, scatter special privileges and deny opportunities until men are obliged to put themselves under tribute for the right to work, surrender a part of the fruit of their toil, and which is justly theirs, for the right to labor, is the quick road to wealth, and one that men follow with alacrity.

In such tribute exacted from one's fellow-men, in the gross overcapitalization of corporations of all kinds, in the manipulation of the stock exchange markets for the stripping of men of their savings, are founded nearly all the great fortunes of to-day. It is so, through paths of injustice, not of brotherhood, with a spirit born of greed, not of charity, that men seek riches, bowing to the god of Baal for a guide, trampling the precepts of our Saviour ruthlessly under foot, as if such precepts were not given for our guidance, but for a better world, and seek riches with success. Indeed, they look upon those precepts as a pretty conceit of a Utopia, as impracticable of application in our earthly lives, as out of harmony with the system for gathering fortunes, a system of injustice and greed which they have made their own,

and rather look down with pity, the pity of contempt, upon those who regard such precepts as given to us to be practiced as well as taught.

And those who have disregarded these precepts have prospered mightily—in a worldly sense—and those who have striven to regard them have not; and those who have striven to effect changes in the system of production and distribution, changes to release the many from tribute to the few and give unto them the rights that of right are theirs, the rights to equal opportunities of labor and enjoyment of the fruits thereof, but that have been denied to them by the crafty and mighty and unscrupulous, taking greed for their guide, stopping not at injustice and disregarding the precepts of Christ, have been covered with maledictions. And so do we have an un-Christian world—at the top. And, worst of all, our churches condone the acts of those who so ruthlessly trample on Christ's precepts, hold such precepts so lightly as to ridicule the very thought of practicing those precepts in their daily lives, ridicule such thought as the dream of impracticables, while our pulpits ring with denunciations of those who believe that to attain a better world we must practice those precepts, and who, speaking their thoughts, cry out against injustice, demand that those practices by which the few strip the many of the fruits of their toil, rear fortunes while countless thousands mourn, shall cease.

But shall we indulge in any lament over the lot of the reformer; is it right that we should? It is true that pursuit of altruistic ideals, efforts to lighten the lot of mankind, make this a better and kinder and happier world to live in are often rewarded with earthly discomforts. And we, who bear such hardships, such sacrifices as the reward of our labors for mankind, may sometimes feel embittered towards a world so apparently unfeeling and unresponsive, that ridicules and spurns us for our efforts, may sometimes, discouraged, disheartened, be inclined to peevishness, disposed to cease in our efforts so unrequited, turn our energies in other directions, give up the unequal fight.

But have we a right to give way to bitterness, peevishness, discontent and drop our ideals, cease our efforts to uplift mankind because crowns of thorns may be the present and prospective quittance for our labors? Let us remember that the world owes its advance to the named and unnamed heroes of the past whose earthly reward has figuratively been the cross, but have left to mankind the priceless heritage of new ideas and thoughts as a leaven working for better things. And in the light of the spirits of these heroes, aye of the sufferings of our Saviour is lamentation over our lot worthy of us? Surely it is not.

Mortal we are, sometimes we may lament, but let us not so far give way to lamentation, to discouragement, as to give up our efforts to beat down the tyranny of the strong over the weak, injustice, man's inhumanity to man, born of greed; ourselves succumb to the spirit of greed. For truly there is a better, a more worthy, a happier spirit to follow, that of love, the brotherhood of man, and a spirit that points to higher things, that followed makes nations great and strong, that discarded leads to decay. For nations, peoples, cannot escape the penalty of disobeying God's laws, that penalty is decay, destruction, an effacing from the very surface of the earth, and the greatest of those laws is the brotherhood of man, the antithesis of which is greed.

Shall we then begrudge sacrifices to save our nation from this spirit of greed that corrupts and destroys, crushes manhood, the national life? It is true, and we quote from the *Philadelphia North American*, that "not less charity but a larger charity is the world's sorest need—a charity that will give Christmas hospitality to new thoughts, or to old thoughts newly presented to fit modern needs, even when their logic means consequences hostile to the privileges of the few to whom the mass of men, and the earnings of the mass of men, are subject. We welcome the Edisons, the Teslas, the Stephensons, the Wattses and all who show

us how we may increase our wealth by improving the machinery of production; but upon those who would show us how we may increase the happiness of the race by improving the machinery of distribution we turn no Christmas face. To great soldiers who display genius for killing we give cheers and riches and honors, but for those who in Christ's and humanity's name plead for justice and mercy and peace we reserve the cross."

But shall we begrudge sacrifices for mankind because the world begrudges us so much as a charitable reception for our thoughts, extends to us no plaudits but points to the cross as our reward? Though the flesh be weak and sorely tempted we surely must not.

And after all does the world begrudge, refuse us a charitable reception for our thoughts? The world that doles out a little charity to the needy in material things or even, in its narrow philosophy, condemns even this poor charity as the breeder of the very evils it seeks to remedy, surely does. But is this all the world? Surely no, there is an immensely broader world than this, the under strata so much thicker than the upper, that knows the charity that gives material things, and is regarded as so fine by those who give, "is no cure for the sufferings of the world that spring from poverty, else want would have vanished from the globe ages ago." And this world is not un-Christian, it has a welcome for the thoughts that those who support the old school of icy political economy which examines the social morass with interest, not to remove but to justify, has no welcome for.

It is true that it is most difficult to get such thoughts before this welcoming world and so is it also true that the encouraging welcome of this world comes to the ear only in broken whisperings, not the volume which enthuses men with the spirit of victory, for the voice of this world is largely smothered, the so-called mouthpieces of public opinion, the great newspapers, mouthpieces for those with money not those without, are not open to it. But in this world that is crushed down because not united in resistance there is the strength to crush down the spirit of greed and rear in its place a body politic and system of wealth production and distribution resting upon the sublime spirit of the brotherhood of man. And this world is a Christian world. To this let Prof. Wyckoff, of Princeton, a well-to-do student of sociology who has conscientiously sought to gain a first hand knowledge of the social conditions existing among the working classes by working as one of them, knocking over the country in various capacities, as farm laborer, railroad "navvy," hotel porter, subscribe:—

"A thing that struck me" he writes, "was the attitude of workmen toward religion. I have attended many of the Socialist and workingmen's meetings in Chicago, and was much impressed by the range of knowledge displayed by the men. They would sneer at the preachers, but Jesus Christ was their ideal. The preachers they called the parasites of society. They would receive the name of the Saviour with veneration, because they regarded Him as the ideal of the solidarity of the human race and the brotherhood of man. It was a great surprise to me when I learned of the attitude of the workingmen toward religion and their reverence for Jesus Christ."

Therefore let us take courage, for though our nation be un-Christian at the top, though our churches may condone the acts of those who ruthlessly trample on Christ's precepts but by hiring the front pews purchase indulgence, it is sound and Christian at the core. And such a nation cannot be deaf to appeals to the better and humaner sides of man, in such a nation the monster selfishness cannot sway so many men or so deeply as the spirit of love and brotherhood, in such a nation the spirit of love, the spirit that sets for a better and kinder and happier time can triumph over the spirit of greed that makes for the downfall of nations, and it will triumph too, if, with a courage not to be daunted by obstacles, a determination that counts no sacrifices, we but exert ourselves to bring

the great world that believes Christ's precepts were given us to be practiced to assert its strength.

POPULISTS AND THE SITUATION THAT CONFRONTS THEM.

SUMMING up the results of the late elections, W. S. Morgan, of Arkansas, ready and powerful of the pen, of great influence among Populists of the great Southwest, comes to the inevitable conclusion that those elections point to the certain and crushing defeat of Mr. Bryan next year if nominated by the Democracy for President. He figures it out, on a basis of the latest election returns, that between Bryan and McKinley as Presidential candidates in 1900 the latter will have a majority in the electoral college of over one hundred votes. This is what the returns of the November elections indicate, if they indicate anything. Of course, election returns of 1899 are not infallible as an indicator of results in 1900, but the indications, the odds are undeniably and overwhelmingly in favor of Mr. McKinley as against Mr. Bryan and, as writes Mr. Morgan, "it requires a wide stretch of hopefulness to think for a moment that these odds may be overcome. Were it the usual thing for the Democratic party to be the recipient of any good fortune it could not help, the hope might be indulged in that something would 'turn up,' as Mr. Micawber would say, that would turn the tide Democraticward. But nothing of that kind may be hoped for, if the Democrats can avoid it, and they can be depended upon to prevent anything of that kind. When it rains political manna their pot is always turned upside down."

And having drawn the conclusion from the November elections that "the Democrats have not the least possible show of carrying the country next year unless something which cannot be foreseen happens," Mr. Morgan continues:

"So much for the situation. Now for the lesson which Populists may gather from it. Admitting that the Democratic leaders are sincere in their professions for reform, (which I don't by any means) there is no hope for Democratic success, and therefore no hope for reform by that road. It has been urged that if we could succeed in placing the Democrats in power we could get some of the measures we wanted enacted into law. Now that all hope of Democratic success is shut off, there is nothing in that plea. So long as we operate with the Democrats, we shut off all possibility of recruiting our ranks from dissatisfied Republicans, promote dissensions in our own party, and delay, if not destroy, all hope of future political reform. To fuse with the Democrats is not only to court party death, but dishonor with it. I believe that the people must rise up and destroy one of the old political parties before any measures of reform can be accomplished. As a rule Republicans will not go to the Democratic party, nor Democrats to the Republican party. Dissatisfied voters want to meet on common ground, and they do not want to be transferred by fusion or co-operation into the ranks of their old-time enemy. If I have shown that there is no hope for Democratic success, then I have demonstrated that it is folly to make the sacrifices which fusion entails and go down with that party in disgraceful defeat. If it is said that we, alone, can elect no officers, I reply that we can preserve our party integrity, promote our party organization and push along the work of education, which, after all, must be the ground work of reform.

"It is not for us to stop to inquire which old party is benefited by our straightforward action. In some states it may be one and in some the other. Our duty lies in the straight path ahead. Let us stand upon our platforms and for our own candidates, and if Democrats become seized with a sudden and uncontrollable spasm of unselfish patriotism, let us inform them that we will furnish both the platform and the candidates, and will be sincerely thankful for all the votes they may give us. That is about the spirit in which they met us in 1896 and it is our turn now. This is the greatest lesson of the recent campaign for Populists to learn."

And all this is truth so plain that the great body of Popu-

lists must have learned it, nor is there reason to doubt that they have learned it. Indeed everything, their recent platform declarations, their letters, the vast preponderance of expression in denunciation of fusion shows that they have. But are Populists so acting that this lesson may not be wasted? Are they so alive to the need of common action, so exerting themselves to keep their party on an independent course, free from the taint of an alliance with a Democracy whose aims are not common with those of the Peoples party, that this lesson cannot be frittered away? Can we give a decided affirmative answer to these questions—questions so serious?

Such are the questions we ask of Populists, who must act not merely drift and wait, Micawber like, for something to turn up, if they would profit from this lesson. And Populists opposed to fusion, vehemently denouncing the policy as virtually declaring that the Peoples party has no reason for being, that the Democracy can be trusted to uphold the principles of Populism, are much at sea, have for months been drifting. Action for cutting loose from the policy of fusion and a national chairman wedded to it many of them have blocked, delayed—resolved to wait before repudiating a leader known to them and distrusted as a fusionist, and though they knew whither he was leading them, until he had led them again into the meshes of fusion, hoping that they could tie his hands, keep him from leading them into such meshes, avoid the necessity of repudiating him, cutting loose from so much of the party organization and machinery as he might control.

For our part we saw the risk of putting off action until again led into the meshes of fusion, led in so deeply, as we feared, that it would be impossible to extricate the party from those meshes. We drew back from running that risk, we pressed for early action with an insistence that even made enemies of friends who failed to understand our motives; we could not see the wisdom of continuing to recognize the leadership of one whose leadership straight Populists could not and refused to trust. Some, indeed, saw things as we saw them and followed us; others could not, attributed our course to a desire to further personal ends, ambitions, an unworthy motive, and refused. So there was held the Cincinnati convention of September a year ago, so have some Populists supported the work of that convention as other mid-road Populists have refused, so are Populists, and Populists opposed to fusion, as a whole at sea. And in this situation they are in no condition to profit from the lesson of the late elections.

Meanwhile the time in which to profit from that lesson is passing. The Republicans have called their National Convention to meet in Philadelphia on June 19th, the Democratic National Committee is to meet in Washington on February 22d for the purpose of calling a national convention, and Chairman Butler is sounding the members of his National Committee with like end in view. In a general letter addressed to these committeemen Senator Butler sets out by calling attention to the "Omaha agreement," or resolution, passed by the National Committee at its meeting in Omaha in June, 1898, directing the calling of the People's Party Convention to meet at least one month in advance of the meeting of either Democratic or Republican Convention. Now, many of these committeemen will be likely to make no response at all to this letter of Senator Butler, not regarding him as a chairman to whom straight Populists should give any recognition. For, indeed, they severed connections with the Butler National Committee at Omaha, in June, 1898; severed connections with it because they regarded it as a fusion committee, while they were Populists, and by the acts of a committee representing a party to which they did not belong they declared they could not and would not be bound, nor would they take part in any acts of such committee, for from recognition of such committee as having authority over them they had declared themselves absolved.

And, as a matter of fact, these Populists did not join in passing the "Omaha agreement." When that so-called agreement or resolution was passed they refused to vote, for when that committee turned its face unmistakably towards fusion they held aloof; from that moment they regarded their usefulness as members of that committee as past, their place as being outside. It is true these Populists did agree to a form of an agreement that was accepted by the members of a conference committee representing the Butler faction of the National Committee, an agreement providing for the calling of a national convention to meet in March, 1899, but when this agreement was presented to the committee the fusionists repudiated this action of their representatives, struck out the clause directing the calling of the national convention for early in 1899, and when the agreement was thus mutilated these Populists refused to have anything further to do with it, aye, refused to longer consider themselves as members of a national committee whose fusion, anti-Populist tendency they could not longer doubt, and refused to make themselves a party to such agreement. And these Populists then joined in issuing the address calling the Cincinnati convention.

It is true that not all straight Populists held aloof from this agreement; it is true that many who by their silence when it was passed entered mute protest against it did later subscribe to it. And so it is that Populists opposed to fusion began to pull on different lines. And then to secure a unity of action, to get all Populists to pull on the same line and in an effective way the Organization Committee of the Peoples party did, at Kansas City, in May last, agree upon and proclaim a plan of action calling upon all true Populists to work under it. And this plan was simply this: Organization of the rank and file of the Peoples party into precinct clubs and under the Cincinnati plan was to be pushed, but has not been. Straight Populists in all states, whether in control of the party organization or not, were requested to send full delegations to the convention of Butler's calling with the assurance that if that convention was controlled by fusionists all straight Populist delegates would feel bounden by this plan to bolt and join the delegations refused admission in the holding of a straight Peoples party convention and the naming of an independent presidential ticket; that if such convention should be controlled by straight Populists it would be their bounden duty to unseat all avowed fusion delegations as not entitled to sit in a Peoples party convention and seat in their place the delegations of straight Populists.

But all this plan rested on a continued recognition of the Butler National Committee right up to the holding of the national convention, when such convention, backed by such committee, should go for fusion and it should be necessary for straight Populists to repudiate it or once and for all give up the ghost or such committee should be reorganized. It was a step backwards from the position taken by those who called the Cincinnati convention, a step in which some acquiesced, but which others have refused to take. And those refusing to give the continued recognition of the Butler National Committee demanded of them by the Kansas City plan cannot be expected to make any response to inquiries directed to them by Senator Butler as Chairman of the Peoples Party National Committee.

Now the questions which Senator Butler asks by letter of the members of his National Committee, are these: First, after referring to the Omaha agreement or the resolution of the committee at its last meeting to call the convention to meet at least one month prior to the assembling of the conventions of the old parties, he asks the committeemen if it is their wish that he should call a meeting of the National Committee to fix time and place for the holding of the national convention and if so what is their preference as to time and place for the meeting of the National Committee, or whether it is their wish that he take the vote of said committee, as to time and place for holding the national convention, and lastly as to extending an invitation to

the silver Republicans to call their convention for like time and place, by letter.

Now, if these committeemen, a majority of those who respond, answer that the holding of a meeting of the National Committee is not worth while, that it is their wish that the Peoples Party National Convention be called to meet at the same time and place as the Democratic convention, which is not at all unlikely, what will be left for Chairman Butler but to obey? True, this would be going back on what is called the Omaha agreement, that ought rightly to be called the resolution passed by the National Committee at Omaha, in June, 1898, but what such committee can do, any action it has taken in the past it can revoke. Indeed it was at this very Omaha meeting, when the proposition for calling the national convention to meet in March, 1899, was under discussion, that Senator Butler himself declared with much emphasis and some passion: "Pass such resolution and it will not be thirty seconds before I am requested to submit the question of its revocation to the members of the National Committee by referendum vote and it will not be thirty days until it is revoked."

And now from Washington we have it reported that the consensus of opinion held by Populist members of Congress is that the national convention of the People's party will probably be held in Kansas City, and that "the meeting will take place after the Democrats have held their national convention." And a leading Populist Senator, presumably Senator Harris of Kansas, is reported as saying that "the Populists and the Silver Republicans will wait for the Democrats to hold their convention before they act. I take it that Bryan will be renominated by the Democrats, and that the Chicago platform will be reaffirmed. If this is done we will indorse the action of the Democratic convention. Speaking for myself, I am opposed to our party putting a ticket in the field; that is, I mean to say, to repeat our action of 1896, when we nominated Tom Watson for Vice-President. I think if the Democrats put up Bryan on the Chicago platform it would add strength to the cause simply for us to meet in convention and give our unanimous indorsement to the Democratic ticket."

Surely it behooves Populists to be on their guard, to exert themselves more than ever before to keep their party on an independent course. The party is again being led into the meshes of fusion by Senator Butler, his National Committee and the Populist members of Congress who owe their seats to fusion deals. In national convention those meshes will be met and from those meshes true Populists, powerless to fight them down in the convention of Senator Butler's calling as they probably will be, a convention from which most of them will be excluded and largely packed with fusionists, will be unable to extricate themselves unless they now organize around the Cincinnati movement in such way as to make it an effective rallying point, secure them a firm footing upon which to rebuild.

Christmas Holiday Excursion Tickets.

The Southern Railway will sell Christmas holiday excursion tickets on December 22nd to 25th, inclusive, also December 30th to 31st, with a final return limit January 4, 1900, at rate of fare and one-third. Tickets will be sold to all points south and southwest.

Tickets will be sold to students of schools and colleges at the above rate on December 15th to 21st, upon presentation of certificates signed by superintendent, principal, or president of the schools and colleges. Chas. L. Hopkins, district passenger agent, 828 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, will be pleased to furnish all information.—*Adv.*

Health for Ten Cents.

Cascarets make the bowels and kidneys act naturally, destroy microbes, cure headache, biliousness and constipation. All druggists.—*Adv.*

BOOK REVIEWS.

A British View of America and Americans.

America To-Day. Observations and Reflections. By WILLIAM ARCHER. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, \$1.25.

While this book consists of a series of articles written and published during the past year, and quite generally commented upon on their appearance, we are yet disposed to notice it somewhat closely because much therein discussed is still of live interest. What we shall say might be considered somewhat in the nature of a postscript to the postscripts which Mr. Archer has himself added to his several articles. And this method of treatment would seem especially fitting by reason of much that has transpired (we use the word advisedly, not in spite of Mr. Archer's decided objection to it, but because it expresses precisely what we mean and more exactly, and at the same time comprehensively than could be done by any other one word) bearing directly and indirectly on the subject matter of the volume.

The author reminds us frequently that his stay in America was too brief to enable him to get anything like a complete view or understanding of America, her institutions, her people and their ways, yet we are free to say that he has obtained, on the whole, a decidedly clear and sound comprehension of all. It is evident throughout the book that he came here with mind open to conviction, if not predisposed in our favor, and ready tuned to a point of enthusiastic appreciativeness. He seems to have been pleased beyond all anticipations, and has written accordingly. Americans can read this book and fairly swell in self-esteem, if that is desirable, for surely no foreigner has ever written of us in terms more complimentary than has Mr. Archer in the first part of this book.

We have said that on the whole he is very correct in his conclusions. There are some few points, however, where he is in error, though the fault is not entirely his. For instance, he has completely misapprehended the meaning and effect of the intelligence requirement in the election laws in force in many of the Southern States. But this is scarcely surprising considering that comparatively few of our own people north of Mason and Dixon's line know anything of the actual working of these iniquitous laws, framed and carried out not to disfranchise the negro voter, but to maintain the supremacy of the Democratic party regardless of the will of the majority of the electorate. As a matter of fact the more intelligent voters are frequently disfranchised, while the "black vote" is counted by unscrupulous election officers to whatever extent may be necessary, even though the negroes themselves seldom go near the polls.

But while Mr. Archer has failed to comprehend this election law question, even as many a Southern voter of quite as much intelligence has failed, though for other reasons, to pass the intelligence test to the "satisfaction" of the election officer, he has clearly perceived and correctly stated the growing together of the North and South. The recent war "did not create a new sense of solidarity between the North and the South, but rather brought prominently to the surface of the national consciousness a sense of solidarity that had for years been growing and strengthening, more or less obscurely and inarticulately, on both sides of Mason and Dixon's line." This is a fact, however much some with personal or political ends to further have tried to make it appear that the Spanish War at one stroke reunited North and South into a common country. All familiar with the feeling among the more intelligent and thoughtful Southern people—the very people who gave stamina to the Rebellion—knew that as a fact the nation possessed no more patriotic citizens within her borders than they. These people recognize that the defeat of the South was best, even though at the time bitter and terrible. And just here Mr. Archer has been misinformed. Hundreds of instances could be cited that would show him conclusively the error of the opinion he was given that the men who really fought the Civil War are resentful and sullen. They are now, as then, the best people of the South, and they are Americans to the heart, such as some the author met, and whose foppish extravagance he comments upon as follows, scarcely are:

"It seems to me, on the whole, that in this country the millionaire is too commonly allowed to fix the standard of expenditure. Society would not be less, but more, agreeable if instead of always emulating the splendors of Lucullus, people now and then studied the art of Horatian frugality. And I note that in club life, if the plutocrat sets the standard of expenditure, the aristocrat looks to the training of the servants."

Unfortunately all this is true, but we are surprised Mr. Archer did not appreciate that it is representative not of the great mass of the American people, but of a comparatively small class, who, in their efforts to follow in the footsteps of the money-rich of Europe, have far outrun them. But all this wasteful and very generally vulgar extravagance centres in a few spots, notably in New York.

We must now turn to another side of this book, for while in fact it is not a piece of special pleading for an Anglo-American alliance its trend is manifestly in that direction. Mr. Archer, while evidently hoping to see, if not an alliance, at least an understanding between Great Britain and the United States, does not close his eyes to the obstacles in the way. He says: "We deceive ourselves if we imagine that there is, or at any rate that there was until recently, the slightest sentimental attachment to England in the heart of the American people at large." The Boer war has already undone much that the Spanish war did towards engendering a friendly feeling for Britain, as, generally speaking, Americans see here the hand of greed and oppression urging forward a powerful nation against a brave handful of people fighting desperately for their homes, their rights and their liberties. The sympathy of the mass of the American people is unquestionably with the Boers and becoming more decidedly so with each British defeat. Mr. Archer fully appreciates the undercurrent of feeling in this country regarding England. Of an assumed affection for her he says: "Let us make no mistake—in the broad mass of the American people no such affection exists. They are simply indifferent to England, with, as I have said, a latent bias towards hostility." And this is undeniably so.

The Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, intent upon uniting all English-speaking peoples for common protection and aggression, might read Mr. Archer's chapters on "Republic and Empire," particularly the fourth, with considerable profit to himself and perhaps advantage to his pet scheme. As we have already said, Mr. Archer shows an understanding and appreciation of American character, thought, feelings and, we might add, prejudices, such as we seldom find in an Englishman, so seldom, indeed, that we have almost given up looking for it. And even as we wonder it is borne in upon us that Mr. Archer is a Scotchman, a fact that may account for the seeming anomaly. In any event he offers his British countrymen (and ours too) some wholesome food for thought. Among other things he says, referring to efforts aiming at alliance: "Most of all must we beware of anything that can encourage an impression, already too prevalent in America, that we find the 'white man's burden' too heavy for us, and are anxious to share it with the United States." But Mr. Chamberlain is not so discreet. By utterances, which, from his standpoint, seem to us extremely ill-advised and impolitic, he has made it very clear to Americans who he thinks would be the greatest gainers by a British-American alliance.

What Constitutes Literature?

Elements of Literary Criticism By CHARLES F. JOHNSON. New York: Harper & Brothers.

It may be questioned whether learning and high education bring the greatest pleasure and happiness, but even assuming that they do not, that they tend to produce a certain dissatisfaction and restlessness, there will be few in an enlightened community who will deliberately advocate ignorance as a blessing in disguise. Going one step further and to the subject here at issue, it may also be questioned who gets the most real enjoyment out of literature—he who reads merely for the simple pleasure and inspiration it affords him without his knowing why, or he who reads with the sharp eye, nice judgment and penetrating knowledge of the trained critic. Certainly the latter will obtain the most acute appreciation and the fullest comprehension, yet often the former will derive the greatest satisfaction. At the same time the trained literary mind will surely get closer to the author's meaning and find much in his words that is beyond the ken of the less educated brother. But, while the trained mind is on the lookout for gems and in position to pick them up and prize them at their full value, it is likewise quick to perceive flaws which the ordinary reader passes by unnoticed. And these jar on a delicate susceptibility with the result that a beautiful conception is marred, if not destroyed, by some miserable little imperfection in giving it expression.

In the book before us Prof. Johnson undertakes to show what constitutes literature, upon what its merits depend, and what elements make for permanence. Literature he holds to be

the highest art because it has the largest scope, because in it every phase of human thought and perception can and does find expression. The author points out that the sculptor and the painter are of necessity limited to portraying one phase, one view, at a time. This is strictly true, yet there have been those who have succeeded in imparting such wonderful life to their works that in looking at them we perceive many sides, many emotions. However, this is largely a reflex action within ourselves, acting upon our imagination. The writer, on the other hand, as Prof. Johnson shows, is able to portray his subject day by day, in all moods, under differing conditions, more, take us behind the scenes and reveal what passes there. Prof. Johnson truly says literature "must possess artistic form." Into this the personality of the author enters and finds expression. The mental power manifested in literature Prof. Johnson considers under seven heads, which become therefore the basic elements of what constitutes literature. These are: First, unity—the power of arranging and constructing in such a way that "the whole seems organic, as if it had grown by a continuous process;" second, the power to understand character and express it in living form; third, philosophic insight, with the power this gives to reveal the unseen and the intangible; fourth, the power of musical expression, which "though but a small matter in itself, contributes more than any other element to giving a production lasting popularity"; fifth, the knack of using words—not only of selecting the right words but of using them in such a way that they shall receive an enhanced value; sixth, the descriptive power—the ability to see more and clearer than most and to convey a correct and living impression; seventh, the power to inspire words with feeling, to make them carry emotion.

It is a pleasure to follow Prof. Johnson as he develops his conception of each of these seven elements, not less because of the ease with which he proceeds and the nice discrimination he evinces, than for the freedom with which he expresses his individual opinion of writers and their productions. That he is qualified for the work he has undertaken will not be disputed by those who read the little volume under review, even if they shall differ with its author in some of his judgments. There is ample proof of the careful and conscientious study he has made of literature, especially English literature, and of his wish to present each point clearly and fairly. The selections he makes for purposes of illustration are more than appropriate.

It has not been our pleasure to read anything of the sort more satisfying or replete with critical acumen than Prof. Johnson's chapter on "The Musical Power." Indeed, it gave us real gratification. He says "that verse is characterized by sound, by musical elements." In this we heartily concur. As we have often contended, there may be and often is fine poetic thought even in "the formless waste of words that lies on the pages of Whitman," but true poetic expression is found in the direction of music and easy, graceful rhythm. These lacking and "the result is not verse, but rhythmical prose, in which we discern here and there the fragment of a line." "The man who can superinduce rhythm on metre is a poet; the men who can build only metrical structures are versifiers." We are especially glad that the chapter takes up prose, showing particularly how rhythmic and poetic expression occurs in it—a fact that is too often overlooked.

He is the rare exception, who, knowing the supreme beauty, perfection and strength of literary productions of the past, can find their equal in anything of the present day. Perhaps we live too fast and that this tends to subordinate mind as well as life to the material and utilitarian. Prof. Johnson notes this inferiority when he says, "we must go back to our ancestors if we wish to find in rhythm any adequate expression of human passion or to form any conception of the scope of imaginative literature." In only one thing—descriptive power—does he find modern literature excelling that of the past. Of verse he writes: "Read the verse written nowadays. It will scan, but it invariably lacks the higher rhythm. It is correct, but it has no heart-beat."

Many will perhaps think this harsh and unjust criticism, and doubtless there can be found those who would take up the cudgels in behalf of every present day poet, big or little. But it will be well to remember the considerations which may impel them. And beyond this, as men differ in their views and feelings, so may the same thing appear very differently to two persons. One may find inexpressible delight and satisfaction in what the other will find flat and insipid. Perhaps, therefore, a good criterion of merit is that a thing should arouse the reader and appeal to him. This is not a rule the literary critic would uphold, indeed it is faulty in many respects and it would not answer at all for some purposes, yet in the narrow sense, that is

for personal application, there is none more effective nor conclusive. Educated or ignorant a man is judge of what pleases him individually, and when a poem, an essay, or what not, appeals to him powerfully, unquestionably it is to him a great piece, even though it be lacking in every attribute most men would require. The old saying that "the proof of the pudding is in the eating" holds good even with regard to literature. But it by no means follows that because a certain thing appeals to one man or to a dozen, that it will have power generally, and for this reason we may safely and properly apply the tests which have been found by experience to be the safe guides to literary merit and power. The mere fact that a writer commands a following proves he has merit; the extent of his genius is shown by the permanence of the hold his productions have. "Most books float a short time, then become waterlogged, then sink with all their crew. The critics cannot scuttle them, though they sometimes try. They usually keep them afloat for a period by some air-blown bladders." The works of a few writers live a little while, those of still fewer survive the generation which produced them, those of a mere handful only endure for ages. Shakespeare is immortal; his works will last as long as literature exists, first, because in them he treats every phase of human thought, second, because he meets the most varied needs and desires the human mind feels.

Pages from Old and Modern Japan.

In Ghostly Japan. By LAFCADIO HEARN. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. \$2.

In all American hearts there is a warm spot for Japan and the Japanese. So many of these charming little gentlemen have resided among us as students during the last twenty years that we regard them with a sentiment of almost friendly proprietorship. Having stood at their shoulders in the position of tutor we naturally feel somewhat responsible for their acts, and are accordingly much gratified at the worthy and honorable position they have taken among the nations of the world. Thus it follows that our people ever show a ready interest in everything relating to the Land of the Rising Sun and eagerly snatch up any new book that is at all likely to satisfy their cravings. Therefore, so long as this interest lives, or until it is superseded by some new and more catchy fad, the field is an unusually enticing one for the literateur. Mr. Hearn, lecturer on English Literature in the Imperial University at Tokyo, has made a new departure in this book. He has got into close and familiar connections with the Japanese themselves and has thereby been enabled to see and delve among things denied the ordinary foreigner. The book is made up of short stories taken from what we may term, for lack of better designation, the folk-lore of Japan, with dashes here and there of modern Japan and Japanese customs. Thus, and in a most satisfactory manner, this book takes its place among the few really useful and valuable works on Japan. What is more, it makes such delightful and easy reading that the reader sorrows that there is not more.

Mr. Hearn is evidently quite conversant with Buddhism, and his views on the accepted religion of millions of men and women, cannot be amiss, and are so interesting that we take the liberty of quoting at some length.

"Buddhism—which, in its own grand way, is a doctrine of evolution—rationally proclaims its heaven but a higher stage of development through pain, and teaches that even in paradise the cessation of effort produces degradation. With equal reasonableness it declares that the capacity for pain in the superhuman world increases always in proportion to the capacity for pleasure. * * * The Buddhist teaching about heaven is in substance eminently logical. The suppression of pain—mental or physical—in any conceivable state of sentient existence, would necessarily involve the suppression also of pleasure; and certainly all progress, whether moral or material, depends upon the power to meet and to master pain. * * * Twenty-four hundred years ago out of solitary meditation upon the pain and the mystery of being, the mind of an Indian pilgrim brought forth the highest truth ever taught to men, and in an era barren of science anticipated the uttermost knowledge of our present evolutionary philosophy regarding the secret unity of life, the endless illusions of matter and mind, and the birth and death of universes. He, by pure reason—and he alone before our time—found answers of worth to the questions of the Whence, the Whither and the Why; and he made with these answers another and a nobler faith than the creed of his fathers. He spoke, and returned to his dust; and the people worshipped the prints of his dead feet, because of the love that he had taught them. Thereafter waxed and waned the name of Alexander, and the power of Rome, and the might of Islam; nations arose and vanished; cities grew and were not; the children of another civilization, vaster than Rome's, begirdled the earth with conquest, and

founded far-off empires, and came at last to rule in the land of that pilgrim's birth. And these, rich in the wisdom of four and twenty centuries, wondered at the beauty of his message, and caused all that he had said and done to be written down anew in languages unborn at the time when he lived and taught. Still burn his foot-prints in the East; and still the great West, marvelling, follows their gleam to seek the Supreme Enlightenment. Even thus, of old, Milinda, the king, followed the way to the house of Nagasina—at first only to question, after the subtle method of the Greeks; yet, later, to accept with noble reverence the nobler method of the Master."

A Brave Coward.

The Chicago & North-Western Railway Company announces the publication of a thrilling story of campaigning in the Philippines, entitled "A Brave Coward." The famous battle of Malate, the charge at La Loma, a love romance, the career of the Tenth Pennsylvania at Manila and in Luzon, the conquering of cowardice by a young Pennsylvanian, are all interwoven into one of the most delightful short stories of the hour yet issued. In common with the First Nebraska, the Thirteenth Minnesota, the Utah and Oregon men and the Twentieth Kansas, the Tenth Pennsylvania made history in the war against Aguinaldo. The tale is superbly illustrated with half-tones, printed in convenient form, and will be forwarded to any address on receipt of 6 cents in postage by W. B. Kniskern, 22 Fifth avenue, Chicago, Illinois.—*Adv.*

Valley Forge.

Forever memorable as the scene of the encampment of Washington's patriot army during the dark winter of 1777-78. It is located on the Main Line of the Philadelphia & Reading Railway about 25 miles from Philadelphia. The stone house occupied by General Washington as his headquarters still stands as it stood in Revolutionary days and the line of entrenchments thrown up by the "Ragged Continentals" may still be seen, as well as the ruins of the ancient forge from which the place derives its name. The locality is also noted for the natural beauty of the scenery surrounding it and is very well worth a visit. The Philadelphia & Reading Railway sell excursion tickets from Philadelphia and run frequent trains to and from Valley Forge.—*Adv.*

Art Calendar.

One of the handsomest calendars that has appeared for the new year represents children playing on the broad beach of one of our Atlantic coast resorts. The youngest, a little tot, is defying the approaching tide of the ocean, and in a spirit of bravado calls out to his companions who are eagerly watching him, "Who's Afraid?"

Copy of this calendar, carefully mailed in strawboard to protect in transmitting, will be mailed on receipt of 10 cents in postage stamps by W. B. Kniskern, G. P. & T. A., Chicago & North-western Ry, Chicago, Ill.

Early application should be made as the edition is limited.—*Adv.*

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

LOT LESLIE'S FOLKS. And their queer adventures among the French and Indians. 1755-'63. By Eleanor C. Donnelly. Pp. 247. Philadelphia: H. L. Kilner & Co.

THE EMPIRE OF THE SOUTH. An Exposition of the Present Resources and Development of the South. By Frank Presbrey. Pp. 183, illustrated. Washington, D. C.: Southern Railway Co.

MOLIÈRE'S LES PRÉCIEUSES RIDICULES. Edited with Introduction and Notes by Walter Dallam Toy. Pp. 62. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co. 25 cents.

MILLENNIAL DAWN. Vol. V. The At-One-Ment between God and Man. Pp. 507. Allegheny, Pa.: Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. 50 cents.

A MESSAGE TO GARCIA. Being a Preachment by Elbert Hubbard. Pp. 11. East Aurora, N. Y.: Roycroft Shop. \$1.

HISTORIC MANSIONS AND HIGHWAYS AROUND BOSTON. Being a New and Revised Edition of "Old Landmarks and Historic Fields of Middlesex." By Samuel Adams Drake. Pp. 440, illustrated. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. \$2.50.

THE LATEST PUBLICATIONS IN MODERN LANGUAGES.—BOOKS FOR STUDENTS.

Lehrbuch der Deutschen Sprache. (Compendium of the German Language.) By ARNOLD WERNER-SPANHOOFD. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co. \$1.

Goethe's Poems. Selected and edited by CHARLES HARRIS. Same publishers. 90 cents.

Erstes Deutsches Schulbuch, für Primärklassen. (First German text book for beginners.) By ROBERT NIX. Same publishers. 35 cents.

Der Katzensteg. (The Cat's Bridge.) By HERRMANN SUDERMANN. Abridged and edited by B. W. Wells. Same publishers. 40 cents.

Episodes from Sans Famille. By HECTOR MALOT. Edited with notes and vocabulary by I. H. B. Spiers. Same publishers. 40 cents.

French Model Auxiliaries. By ALFRED HENNEQUIN. Same publishers. 50 cents.

El Capitan Venano. By D. PEDRO A. DE ALARCÓN. Edited with notes and vocabulary by J. D. M. Ford. Same publishers. 65 cents.

Exercises in Spanish Composition. By J. D. M. FORD. Same publishers. 35 cents.

GERMAN.

While there is no absolute demand for good school books in these days of overproduction, Professor Werner-Spanhoofd's recent publication will certainly be a welcome guest to the many schools and more numerous students, who teach and who are anxious to learn German. The book is designed more particularly for class work, and has been tested in the Washington, D. C., high schools, of which the author is director of the German department. Professor Spanhoofd is a book writer of fame; all his publications have been highly received, both by teacher and student, and this fact is, indeed, a guarantee that this, his latest book, will fulfill its mission.

While every teacher has his own view, his own way, his own method, so to speak, of teaching, and every one his own individual students, upon whose ability and general make-up he has largely to depend, and while these different teachers may favor the one or the other system of teaching, to which they have to some extent devoted themselves and thus become familiar with it, most teachers will find upon carefully examining the book before us, that it has a great many good points. To these their special attention is directed. The book is chiefly designed for use as a "Practical Course for Beginners" and as such embodies many practical ideas. The ground work consists of a series of carefully graded illustrative lessons, thirty-five in number, which are intended to comprise the work for one scholastic year in high school or academy. Each lesson is thoughtfully divided in five parts, viz.: (1) development lesson; (2) reading; (3) grammar; (4) vocabulary, and (5) exercises. Prof. Spanhoofd's eighteen years of practical experience in public and private schools has largely contributed to make this book a useful manual for every teacher who wishes to combine both the conversation and the grammar.

The demand for and the interest in poetry is growing constantly. Students in these days are taught to appreciate the beauty of poetry as well as prose. Translations from the most prominent poets are no longer a rarity in our libraries, and indeed, many a poet in his own language is quite frequently to be found on the tables of our sitting-rooms. The trouble is that many a poem by many a writer in a foreign language is not quite easily understood. A little help, a little explanation, a note or two of comment is wanted to render intelligible hidden thoughts, colloquial expressions, ideas and phrases, and thus unfold the beauty and open the charm of the foreign master's noble thought. Professor Charles Harris, of the Adelbert College, Cleveland, has here successfully accomplished this task and edited the most desirable poems of Goethe, a selection of about two hundred, which are considered among the best the great German wrote. The work, which is by no means an easy one, must and will be highly appreciated. The arrangement is as thorough as one could wish. The poems are in chronological order, with numerous explanations and commentaries. The book gives the origin and the history of each poem, as far as known, which we think will be more appreciated by Germans themselves than by foreigners generally. The compiler says: "No excursion has been made into the fields of aesthetics, and there is no discussion of any of the fascinating problems which arise in the study of the great master." We hope that this statement will not be misunderstood. The book is prefixed with an elaborate introduction, giving useful,

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A Great Historic Work.

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By Albert S. Bolles, Ph D., LL.D.

Lecturer in the University of Pennsylvania and Haverford College.

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The work opens with a description of the scenery of the State at the time of Penn's coming, and of the various Indian tribes. Then comes the narrative of Penn's career—his reasons for becoming a Quaker, his persecutions, his travels, his purchase of Pennsylvania, etc.

Next follows the story of the Revolution—the state of the people, their martial spirit, their battles, sufferings and triumphs.

In 1776 Penn's charter was thrown aside and a new constitution adopted, with a Supreme Executive Council, which lasted till 1790, when a new Executive government was formed.

The general narrative, all admirable for its simplicity and clearness of style, is made additionally charming by special chapters which treat of various social, economic and scientific themes of correlative interest. In all a work without which no library can be called complete.

In two volumes, octavo, 1150 pages; cloth, gilt top, \$5. Half morocco, gilt top, \$9.

JOHN WANAMAKER.

interesting and chronological data of the man and the poet. Over one hundred pages of notes, the biographical list of persons mentioned in the poems or notes, and the index of first line of each poem materially aid to make this book what it really is: "A household book for not only Americans, but for every student of verse, every lover of poetry."

The importance of study of the "German Language" in our public schools, and in the elementary classes especially, has been advocated more than once. Since, German has been introduced in many a school, in fact, has become obligatory in quite a number of states. Many books for study and self-study, many methods and systems for all grades and classes and conditions of students have been published, but strange to say comparatively few books have been published for the benefit of the little ones of the lower grades, yes, the lowest, the kindergarten departments. "Erstes Deutsches Schulbuch" is exactly such a book. It is a book the want of which has been felt for a long time. And pleased will those teachers be who make a specialty of this particular kind of work. The book is illustrated, a great feature to awaken the interest of children, indeed, quite often of adults as well; it contains a small number of popular German songs. The first hundred pages are printed in English type, which will be of great assistance in view of the disparity of conditions under which German is taught in different schools and the various grades of pupils. As the book is only a primer it is designed for most of the fundamental work done with the aid of the blackboard. The German script given in this splendid book is according to the latest revised method adopted in all public schools in Germany. Professor Robert Nix, who is Superintendent of German instruction in the public schools of Indianapolis, will surely find a great deal of enthusiasm, and with it due reward for this timely, clever and original "Children's Elementary German Book," which he offers to the public in such a unique and praiseworthy form.

Suderman is considered not only the best modern dramatist of Germany, but ranks unquestionably among the most forceful writers of the day. He possesses wonderful imaginative power and exhibits a great technique in the mastery of the resources of the novelist's art. He is, indeed, as Mr. Wells calls him, a distinctly Prussian genius, in the sense that he chooses his subjects, draws his inspiration, uses his force and idioms and marks his expressions with all the wonderful traits and colorings so peculiar to the Prussians in general.

The great dramatist is a child of Eastern Prussia, where he was born in 1857. His talents developed early, and he began to write when young. In the early eighties he appeared with his "Twilight Tales" and ever since he has risen, until now he is considered the leading genius in both drama and prose. In the story before us, which critics have pronounced to be in a great many ways his strongest, this fearless writer appears as the apologist of the natural as opposed to conventional ethics of society. The father of the hero of the story, Boleslav, in whom Polish blood speaks louder than German birth, believes in Napoleon's promises to the Poles and aids his troops. They, the troops, surprise and massacre a Prussian detachment. Now the racial instinct begins to come forth in the German peasants around the castle, which becomes even stronger than his own. They abhor as treason to Germany what seemed to him righteous vengeance for the partition of Poland. "I cannot save the oppressed, this belongs to a Greater Power, but I could aid him who rushes like a Nemesis of vengeance over the entire Europe and awakens the morally run down world which is so sleepy and so full of apathy to-day," he argues with his son, who protests against the action of his father. In consequence of this action, his home is burned and himself hounded to death. His son, who in the meantime had abandoned his name and family after the treason had fully become known to him and who had served gallantly in the war of Liberation against Napoleon, returns in the course of the story to find his father dead and not one in the whole community to bury him save Regina, his outcast accomplice, a girl with animal virtues and the vices of her instincts, one of the most strange and fascinating psychological studies in recent modern fiction. He argues in conclusion that her fault, too, lies less in nature, less in the individual herself than in the social conventionalities of the day, in struggling against which this poor girl perishes.

The story is extremely fascinating, wild and weird, sombre and stern. It is, of course, greatly abridged, but still offers interesting reading for advanced students of German of both sexes, who cannot help perusing such a story with considerable benefit and pleasure.

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The many expressions and colloquial terms and words commonly used in the Eastern part of Prussia, have been cleverly and accurately defined by the scholarly editor. Only advanced students will derive real benefit from such reading, which ought to be selected for higher classes in our schools instead of poor selections, which are so dry and monotonous.

FRENCH.

Few authors have been fully appreciated by the great academies of the world, fewer still have received the distinction of a prize by the French Academy. Those few, as a rule, and with but rare exceptions, are genuine masters, their productions masterpieces. Such a gem in the realm of French prose is "Sans Famille," a story of the most brilliant authorship in the French language, the episodes of which are but extracts from the opening chapters of Malot's famous novel. As a story and as a novel it is both sweet and pathetic, and tells the thrilling tale of a foundling. Written in 1878, it was looked upon and received at the time as the author's best, a reputation which has been maintained ever since. M. Malot is considered a very fruitful novelist in the French literature, and indeed, he has distinguished himself in a great many ways in that direction. Many editions of his novels, especially of "Sans Famille," have been reproduced and the latter even abridged for educational and similar purposes, not only in the United States, but abroad. It needs no further saying that the author enjoys the distinction of few men of the day. His book is yet considered, after a lapse of more than twenty years, one of the best for style, beauty of description and charm of language, since nowhere else is more clearly shown the directness of narrative, the simplicity of style, the clearness of sight of a writer, who is rather an observer than a poet, and whose pictures are rather photographs than paintings. Professor Spiers, senior assistant master of the "Penn Charter School," of Philadelphia, has well selected and well edited this beautiful story, supplementing it with a most useful vocabulary and valuable notes, so that the reading becomes a source of pleasure to all those interested in the French language.

The study of no language is a very easy task. Each language, no matter whether modern or ancient, requires a thorough training, a careful preparation, a great deal of perseverance and, last, but not least, a capable teacher. Some of the modern languages, and French in particular, give to English speaking students considerable trouble, not because the language is so difficult in itself, but simply because of the use and abuse of so many of the verbs, which puzzle, misguide and not seldom discourage the student from continuing. Many attempts have been made by many a prominent teacher of many a distinguished school to prepare tables, lessons, exercises and cards with the view of making this hard task somewhat easier; indeed, books have been written to a great extent on this subject—still, the difficulty exists. Dr. Alfred Hennequin, the principal of the well known Boston school of like name, has now prepared what he calls "A Practical Treatise on French Model Auxiliaries" considered in their relation to grammar and idioms, with exercises and reading, composition and conversation. As far as known there exists among all the different school books not one which has taken up in a thorough and well worked out way the auxiliaries of mode of the French language, treated them at length, and prepared for practical use at home and in school. This book must, and undoubtedly will, be received as a book needed, for it will certainly be of help to those who wish to acquire a knowledge of French, which means first a knowledge of French verbs and the auxiliaries in particular. Every explanation is given in a direct, simple and comprehensive manner; the exercises are short and to the point, and the rules explained by examples to follow, which renders this little book an invaluable treasure for every one who may have some trouble, or who wishes to avoid trouble before he becomes an expert in the French language.

SPANISH.

For the last year or two the Spanish language has become most popular in our country, not only in schools but among business men because of its practical value. Most of the business colleges and many private schools have introduced Spanish, and some of the most prominent universities have not only added it to their curriculum, but have had their catalogues translated into Spanish. There is much talk of introducing Spanish into our public schools and teaching it, instead of French, in every commercial department of the public school system, which department makes one or two modern languages obligatory. It is a

Presidential Year

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positive fact that there was more demand for Spanish books last year than supply; there were some grammars, comparatively few text books and no readers. Dr. Ford, as instructor of romance languages in Harvard University, found it a necessity to edit a standard reader which could be profitably used by classes in college, or in fact in any school. His choice is certainly exquisite. He selected the best known novel by the best known writer in Spanish literature of this century. Alarcon occupies an important position as a novelist and is, among the many gifted authors of his country, one of those who have endowed and enriched it to a great extent. Professor Ford has made this book doubly useful by editing it admirably for studying purposes, adding numerous pages of useful and instructive notes and a very complete vocabulary. This book will doubtless find an appreciative market, and it is hoped that many other teachers may follow the example and publish good Spanish "easy" and advanced readers, so as to keep up the interest of the many Americans who have spent time and money in the study of the Spanish language.

The editor of the former book has also compiled "Exercises in Spanish Composition," adapted for classes of the first and second year. While the work is very practical, or rather the task, we cannot see why Professor Ford has not made a strictly independent composition book of it. He has instead based the third part on Alarcon's "El Capitan Venano," thus obliging students, who might wish to buy one book only, to get the two at once. Besides, \$1.00 for the two books is most too high, though the price of each book would be fair provided they were independent of one another. The exercises in this little book are grouped under three heads, the first and second parts comprising those selected by Professor Ford for use in his classes at Harvard University. The third class, as mentioned above, are to be used in connection with "Alarcon's Reader." Those interested in commercial Spanish will appreciate the few Spanish letters they will find to translate from the English text. The vocabulary and foot-notes are based upon modern Spanish and the student should make splendid progress in writing and rewriting these sentences, and having them corrected carefully by a thorough teacher of the Spanish tongue.

BRIEFER NOTICES.

The Surface of Things. By CHARLES WALDSTEIN. Boston: Small, Maynard & Co. \$1.25.

If we are to accept the opinion of the author, this is a novel with a purpose. He tells us that it is the product of deep study, calm thought and grave deliberation; that it was published not without considerable hesitation and reluctance, for, as he further states, he feared his modesty and retiring disposition might be offended by the stir his book was destined to make among all thoughtful and serious students. In previous works his name did not appear as he chose to work under the *nom de plume* of Gordon Seymour, but now he has finally decided that due credit should be given to the rightful owner, Charles Waldstein. Modesty is such a rare and sweet flower in the wild and rough fields of literature that we feel in duty bound to let our readers enjoy for themselves this unique curiosity. In our author's preface we find the following:

"One of the chief reasons which led me to adopt a pseudonym becomes manifest when I am about to reprint the original introduction. The whole of the introduction (of the stories as well) is completely changed when once I put my name to it. When I published it I was ab'e to suppress my personality, and I wrote under the shelter of a pseudonym, which seemed to spread a simple and fresh shade over all I might say about myself or my work. Under cover of a fictitious personality I could, for instance, without hesitation and without danger of incurring the charge of personal vanity, publish the terms of commendation expressed by a literary friend on these stories and the general idea contained in the series. The whole position is entirely altered when once the author and the man appear inseparably joined in the work put before the public. There is then a constant menace to good taste and sincerity on the part of the author and the public, in that he should appear to obtrude his personality in the work, and the public be encouraged in the vice of undue curiosity and the confusion between the professional and private aspects of life."

The good and skilled workman should be proud of his work, never ashamed of it. It is only the poor and careless worker who need fear publicity. Despite his over-assertion of false modesty,

Mr. Waldstein has done a work of considerable merit, one that must have a very beneficial effect on the body politic. His method of teaching is not that of others, in fact it is quite new, but nevertheless effective. He starts out with the premise that no work without an object in view should be tolerated or engaged in, that the author's position as leader of thought and sometimes action is indeed a responsible one, and that, unfortunately, the great majority seem to forget that they have any duties in life other than that of feathering their own nests. Whatever else we may say of Mr. Waldstein this we cannot say. Undoubtedly he has a sincere and inbred desire to help his fellow men and, what is more to the point, in these three story essays he has done so. And this covereth such a multitude of sins that a voice tempts us to overlook all else of a derogatory nature and bid him a hearty and earnest God-speed.

In Connection with the De Willoughby Claim. By FRANCES HOLGSON BURNETT. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.50.

Mrs. Burnett, the author of "Little Lord Fauntleroy," "That Lass O' Lowrie's" and other stories, occupies a position among the writers of fiction surpassed by none. She has been before the public for many years and, if anything, her reputation is more world wide and her friends more numerous than ever before. Out of the many striving and struggling novelists but very few achieve lasting success. Many meet with a temporary success and imagine they have gained the goal of their dreams and ambition, but alas, only to find their hard-earned crown torn ruthlessly from their surprised brow by some new darling of a fickle public's smiles. It is only the author who has successfully

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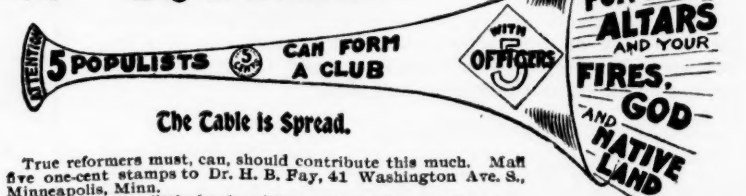
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outlived the storms and calms of the literary sea for some years in succession who can lay rightful claim to the proud distinction of being one of those whose names will outlive their mortal existence. As we have already said, the authors who attain to such an enviable position among the hosts of their less successful comrades are few indeed. Those who have passed victoriously before the tribunal of public opinion during the past dozen years can be counted on the ten fingers.

Among these few exalted wielders of the pen, by common consent, we must place Mrs. Burnett. Her ability to paint a sympathetic, simple and beautiful picture of trusting child life has never been surpassed. In this Mrs. Burnett is unequalled. And when we also understand and study the other characteristics of this noted writer we do not wonder at the universal success she has won. Her character sketches are veritable treasures in the clearness of their style and in their dramatic force. Mrs. Burnett is nearly always tragically intense in her stories; never more so than in this her latest. Our only comment is that the story is so real and life-like that it is a positive strain on the mind. In no sense can it be said of this novel that it makes easy and pleasant reading—rather it is a deep and thorough study of certain phases of humanity.

But of the story itself who can fail to love and admire "Big Tom" De Willoughby and his gentle and self-sacrificing life? Seldom in life do we meet with such a big hearted and charming man, but after all he is so wholly human that he is real. In the Rev. John Baird our author presents a character of masterful force and one that should have been, and was if we measure a man by his work, noble in the sight of God, and yet one who in an hour of weakness deceived and ruined a trusting and over-confiding woman who loved him too well. Still we have no hesitation in saying that a study of John Baird's life will be of infinite help to every man and woman who has heard even a whisper of the tempter. Through the tale runs of course the inevitable love story, and as we see it, this is the weakest thing about the book. Uncle Matt, the faithful old ex-slave, is a character we will long remember with pure and unalloyed delight.

* *

The Archbishop's Unguarded Moment and Other Stories. By OSCAR FAY ADAMS. Boston: L. C. Page & Co. \$1.25.

From the title one would naturally expect a story dealing with things that are shady and ways that are dark. However, with the possible exception of the last story, such is not the case and there is absolutely nothing between the covers that can in any way shock even the good taste of the proverbial "old maid." The title of a novel is of such vital importance in the life of a book that the author should take particular care to select one that is broad, comprehensive, catchy, and, at the same time, one that cannot offend the public. This book from the pen of Oscar Fay Adams is made up of some seven short stories, every one of which has as its central figure-head a bishop. Our readers may be well acquainted with these stories for all of them first peeped at the light of day from the columns of such well known and popular magazines as the *Cosmopolitan*, *Munsey's* and the *New England Magazine*. They are therefore simply reproduced in book form that the public may enjoy their quaint humor and ready fun once more. Though Mr. Adams has written nothing that by any stretch of the imagination could be classed as strong or lasting, he has a bright and breezy style that is in all ways pleasant. He who cares to pass a few hours in quiet enjoyment and subdued laughter will do well to become the possessor of this clever volume.

* *

A Message to Garcia. Being a Preachment by ELBERT HUBBARD. East Aurora, N. Y.: Roycroft Shop. \$1.

We have just received a copy of "A Message to Garcia," not one of the million odd which have been distributed fifty thousand at a time by great railway corporations among their employees but of a beautiful de luxe edition bound in limp chamois, satin-lined, with illuminated title page and all the other little niceties which have justly won for the Roycroft Shop such a high reputation for exquisite book work. No one reading this twelve page booklet will fail to understand the almost unexampled favor it has received since its first appearance as an article in *The Philistine* of March last. Mr. Hubbard here strikes a very important question square in the face, and if what he says shall make some see stars, figuratively if not literally, no harm will result. The whole burden of his earnest words is the crying need for men and women who will do what they undertake to do, not shirk their duties; who will put into their work, whatever it is, the intelli-

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Cures Catarrh, Cold in the Head, Headache, Neuralgia, Sore Throat, Hay Fever, Asthma, Bronchitis and Irritation of the Air Passage. Is also of great value in Croup and Inflammation of the Larynx.

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"I ordered from you a few weeks ago an Inhaler outfit. It helped me wonderfully. I went home two weeks ago and found my son suffering from Catarrh, so I gave him my Inhaler. I want you to send me another one. Find enclosed postage for same. I believe it will cure me."

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gence God gave them for use, not abuse. As a text he takes Captain Rowan, who at the outbreak of the Spanish war took a message from President McKinley and delivered it to Garcia who he somehow and somewhere found in the jungle of Cuba. The sermon Mr. Hubbard preaches is full of meat, it is delivered with effect, couched in the language of which he is master. Everyone, whether employer or employee, employed or unemployed, can read it to advantage. The cheap edition costs but ten cents and is of course the one to get to read and then pass on to your neighbor.

IN THE LITERARY WORLD.

The death of Dr. Elliott Coues on Christmas day, in his fifty-eighth year, leaves a large place vacant. While his life study was ornithology, in which science he was recognized, since the death of Dr. Baird, as the first authority in America and one of the first the world over, he by no means confined himself exclusively to birds or for that matter to science. He was a man of great energy and indefatigable industry, and in the last few years has done a work in the early history of Western North America of such positive character and lasting value that he deservedly ranks with the few first historians America has produced. No one has done work of a more original sort in a less cultivated field than that Dr. Coues did in the series of books beginning with the Lewis and Clark journals, in which he has presented the history of the pioneer days in the West. A final volume in this series has been delayed through the inability of Dr. Coues, because of illness, to write the preface. He had also for some time been engaged in revising the "Key to North America Birds," originally published in 1872. This work we understand is left practically completed.

The many who find a particular charm about old books and rare editions will feel a personal interest and regret at the death of Bernard Quaritch, who died in London on the 17th instant, at the ripe age of eighty. Probably no man had a larger knowledge of old books than he and certainly no one knew their commercial value so well. It was his business to collect and market rare works, and he thoroughly understood how to do both. "But" as the *Publishers' Weekly* rightly remarks, "he was something more than an astute dealer. He had a true love for his business."

The *Philistine* for January is uncommonly full, but still holds its usual straight course. It offers so much that is good that one can scarcely make a selection till he has been clear through, but unlike the fourteen course dinner it leaves you with a clear head and only agreeable recollections. The chief Roycroft is in fine trim as he assures us, and as is likewise evidenced by the fall he takes out of Prof. Harry Thurston Peck, and a jaunty fling at his old friend Edward K. Bok, of the *Ladies' Home Journal*, who seems to be quite the red flag in the East Aurora bull ring.

"There are two kinds of biography," says Norman Hapgood "that I find especially of value. The first is written by friends who knew the man intimately; the second is by those who are sufficiently removed from the man in point of time to judge him dispassionately." And it is for the latter reason partially, we would not say wholly, that Mr. Hapgood succeeded so admirably in his "Abraham Lincoln, the Man of the People," recently reviewed at length in these columns. It is a book that should be read by everyone who wants to get a clear view of Lincoln as he actually was.

Harper & Brothers have in preparation the "Letters and Reminiscences of Robert E. Lee," edited by his son, Captain R. E. Lee, which, it is believed, will throw much new light upon the causes that governed the manoeuvres of the Confederate army during the closing days of the war. The work will be ready some time before the spring. They have also in preparation, "The Charming Renee," by Arabella Kenealy, author of "Men Are Such Gentlemen," etc.; and "The Lost Continent," a new book by Cutcliffe Hyne.

Richard G. Badger & Co., have just ready the long-delayed volume of poems by James Jeffrey Roche, named after his best-known verse, "The V-a-s-e."

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